 In the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of the claims pending in the present application:

1.   (Original) A mobile unit comprising memory and a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes computer program code configured to perform the steps:

retrieving from memory an available amount of time that the mobile unit is authorized to utilize wireless services with the mobile unit;

allowing the mobile unit to utilize wireless services for a first time period, the first time period being less than or equal to the available amount; and

deducting the first time period from the available amount.

2.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the storage medium is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.

3.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the memory is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.

4.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the mobile unit utilizes the wireless services via GSM, CDMA, TDMA, or GPRS communications protocol.

5.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the computer program code is further configured to receive an indication that a user has prepaid for a second amount of time and adding the second amount of time to the available amount of time.

6.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 5, wherein the indication is received via a short message service (SMS) message.

7.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the computer program code is further configured to provide a notification to the user when the available amount of time reaches one or more thresholds.

8.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 7, wherein the notification comprises an audio tone or a text message.

9.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the wireless services include receiving an incoming call.

10.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 1, wherein the wireless services include placing an outgoing call.

11.   (Original) A mobile unit comprising memory and a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes computer program code configured to perform the steps:

        storing in memory a first amount of flat-rate time units that the mobile unit is pre-authorized to utilize;

        receiving a first indication that a user is attempting to utilize the mobile unit to connect to a wireless service provider;

        retrieving the first amount of flat-rate time units from memory; determining whether the first amount of flat-rate time units is above a first limit; and

        upon determining the first amount of flat-rate time units is above the first limit, allowing the mobile unit to connect to the wireless service provider.

12.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the storage medium is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.

13.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the memory is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.

14.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the mobile unit utilizes the wireless services via GSM, CDMA, TDMA, or GPRS communications protocol.

15.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the computer program code is further configured to receive a second indication that a user has prepaid for a second amount of time and adding the second amount of time to- the first amount of flat-rate units.

16.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 15, wherein the second indication is received via a short message service (SMS) message.

17.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the computer program code is further configured to provide a notification to the user when the available amount of time reaches one or more thresholds.

18.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 17, wherein the notification comprises an audio tone or a text message.

19.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the wireless services include receiving an incoming call.

20.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 11, wherein the wireless services include placing an outgoing call.

21.   (Original) A mobile unit comprising memory and a storage medium, wherein the storage medium includes computer program code configured to perform the steps:

    retrieving from memory a first amount of flat-rate minutes that the mobile unit is pre-authorized to utilize wireless services;

    monitoring a first time period that the mobile unit utilizes wireless services; and

    causing wireless services to be discontinued when the first time period is greater than or equal to the first amount of flat-rate minutes.

22.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 21, wherein the storage medium is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.

23.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 21, wherein the memory is a subscriber interface module (SIM) card.

24.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 21, wherein the mobile unit utilizes the wireless services via GSM, CDMA, TDMA, or GPRS communications protocol.

25.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 21, wherein the computer program code is further configured to receive a second indication that a user has prepaid for a second amount of time and adding the second amount of time to the first amount of flat-rate units.

26.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 25, wherein the second indication is received via a short message service (SMS) message.

27.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 21, wherein the computer program code is further configured to provide a notification to the user when the available amount of time reaches one or more thresholds.

28.   (Original) The mobile unit of claim 27, wherein the notification comprises an audio tone or a text message.

29.   (Original) A prepaid application system having a storage medium, the storage medium including computer program code configured to perform the steps of:

        receiving an indication that a user of a mobile device has prepaid for a first amount of flat-rate minutes of wireless services; and

        notifying the mobile unit that the mobile unit is authorized to utilize the first amount of flat-rate minutes of wireless services.

30.   (Original) The prepaid application system of claim 29, wherein the step of notifying is performed by transmitting a short message service (SMS) message to the mobile unit.

31.   (Original) A prepaid application system having a storage medium, the storage medium including computer program code configured to perform the steps of:

receiving an indication that a mobile unit has utilized a first amount of time of wireless services;

determining whether the first amount of time is greater than or equal to a prepaid amount of flat-rate time; and

deactivating the mobile unit if the first amount of time is greater than or equal to the prepaid amount of flat-rate time.

32.   (Original) A prepaid application system having a storage medium, the storage medium including computer program code configured to perform the steps of:

receiving an indication that a user of a mobile device has prepaid for wireless services; and

notifying a plurality of wireless service providers that the mobile device is authorized to utilize the wireless service provider.